

**Children's Behavioral Health Initiative**  
**February 2001**  
**KidCare Update**

---

As the 2001-2002 Legislative session opens, KidCare is anticipated to be the focus of much discussion and review. For those of you who have not yet accessed the full report to the Legislature, entitled Connecticut Community KidCare Plan to Reform the Delivery and Financing of Children's Behavioral Health Services, you may do so by logging on to the DCF website at <http://www.dcf.state.ct.us> or you can contact the Division of Mental Health at (860) 550-6561 and request a hard copy.

The KidCare report details in great depth the plan to develop and expand behavioral health services, the financing strategies that will be used and the manner in which we hope to fully involve parents and professionals from all family related systems in this new initiative.

The Division of Mental Health is happy to welcome the five new regional Mental Health Program Directors, Hedy Gryszan, Maria Brereton, Carmen Sands-Reeves, Joyce Lee-Taylor, and Lind Remmele who have begun to participate in orientation activities up here in Central Office. Regional input and direction is vital to the success of KidCare and all of us in the Division are looking forward to working closely with the new Program Directors to ensure that regional issues are identified and addressed. In addition, we welcome Gary Minetti from the Bureau of Quality Management who has recently been assigned to the KidCare project, representing quality assurance.

Plans for beginning to implement KidCare are underway and the Department eagerly awaits guidance and direction from the Governor's office and the Legislature. The efforts of regional staff to seek alternatives to residential placement, particularly out of state placements is much appreciated and sets the stage for encouraging the system change needed for KidCare to succeed.

Again, the division of Mental Health welcomes your comments and questions and we will make every effort to respond to your E-mails.

---